

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23540

For too long, the State of Idaho has avoided increased funding maintenance for our roads and bridges. This lack of diligence has jeopardized public safety, economic growth and our ability to sustain and grow jobs. Nearly 700 state and local bridges in Idaho are deficient. Twenty five percent more will become deficient in 5 years. Many of those structurally deficient bridges are on main arteries in our communities. Recent data suggests that for every one dollar the State of Idaho spends now, six to fourteen tax dollars will be saved later. The Idaho Department of Transportation has made strides in becoming more efficient by spending more on projects and less on bureaucracy. Indeed, ITD has eliminated 103.5 full-time positions in the past two years. That translates to the elimination of six percent of its workforce. As each year passes, the state of our roads and bridges declines further and the costs for repairs grow. Not maintaining our roads is a form of deficit spending that needs to be addressed. This proposed legislation addresses that need for increased transportation funding.

FISCAL NOTE

The General Fund impact is estimated to be \$40,914,636 for the first year, \$44,673,636 for year two and \$44,854,636 for year three. The proposed legislation also includes an additional increase in transportation maintenance revenue in the amount of \$114,916,727 for the first year, \$165,038,972 in year two and \$175,095,000 in year three and an additional \$9,020,000 every year thereafter. The total amount raised for transportation maintenance under the legislation is: \$155,831,363 for the first year, \$209,712,608 in year two and \$218,949,636 in year three increasing an additional \$9,020,000 every year thereafter.

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